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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Kenneth Ray Marley )  
Filed: 01/08/2004 ) Group Art Unit: 3676  
Serial No.: 10/753,712 ) Examiner: Suzanne D. Barrett  
For: **Ball Hitch Locking Device**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Response to Office Action**

Sir:

This Response is filed addressing the issues raised in the Office Action dated 09/14/2005, regarding the above-noted application for patent. The Applicant submits that, in light of the remarks below, the application is in proper condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the noted rejections and allow the patent to proceed to issue.

**REMARKS**

**Claims**

The rejections to Claims 1-3, as specified in the Office Action are noted. Examiner has based the rejection of the claims based upon 35 USC 103(a) applying the following prior art patents:

Claim 1 is rejected as unpatentable over Vuillemot '055 in view of Hillabush '317, Hurst '496 and either Harris '884 or Mamo '555;

Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Niswanger '064 or Vuillemot in view of Hillabush, Hurst and Harris; and

Claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over (?) in view of Fazzolari '493. Applicant is